

Public Notice:

Rhode Island Board of Education

Regulations of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education:

Middle and High School Learning Environments and the Rhode Island Diploma System

Public Notice of Proposed Rule-Making

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapters 16-21-34 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, and in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act Chapter 42-35 of the General Laws, the RI Board of Education hereby gives notice of its intent to adopt the Regulations of the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary: Middle and High School Learning Environments and the Rhode Island Diploma System.

The amended regulations approved by the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education, for the purpose of public review and comment, are revised for the purpose of establishing the framework for implementing the Rhode Island Diploma System. These regulations require all school districts to develop and implement a comprehensive secondary diploma system for middle and high schools that includes: student and teacher supports, local aligned policies, multiple learning opportunities for all students, and multiple measures for determining graduation readiness. These regulations reflect key learning principles that have been identified since the 2003 secondary school regulations that are seen as imperative for ensuring college and career ready graduates including: proficiency-based graduation requirements; comprehensive supports to students; personalized learning experiences; common planning time and professional development support for teachers. This amendment does not substantively change current policy for Rhode Island secondary schools, rather it clarifies existing regulation. The regulations increase flexibility for schools and students in meeting state graduation requirements. The amended regulations extend the previous regulatory expectations for literacy skill acquisition to support numeracy acquisition for all students; clarify that all coursework requirements must demonstrate proficiency at a level aligned to high school content standards; a shift in state assessment from a student-based requirement to a school-system based incentive; expanding allowable personalization strategy options; and clarify sufficient notification of graduation requirements for students and their families.

The proposed draft regulations are available for public inspection in person at the RI Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 255 Westminster Street, Providence, RI requested by email at Sonya.Barbosa@ride.ri.gov or by calling Sonya Barbosa at 401-222-8463.

In drafting this rule, consideration was given to: (1) alternative approaches; (2) overlap or duplication with other statutory and regulatory provisions; and (3) significant economic impact on small business. No alternative approach, duplication, or overlap was identified based upon available information.

Four public hearings on the proposed draft regulations will be held on:

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| <p><u>Monday, August 22, 2016</u> Cumberland Public Library Rooms 1 & 2, Hayden Center 1464 Diamond Hill Road Cumberland, RI 02864 5:30 p.m.</p> | <p><u>Monday, August 29, 2016</u> Newport Public Library Program Room, Lower Level 300 Spring Street Newport, RI 02840 5:30 p.m.</p> |
| <p><u>Tuesday, September 6, 2016</u> Warwick Public Library Room 101, Large Meeting Room 600 Sandy Lane Warwick, RI 5:30 p.m.</p> | <p><u>Monday, September 12, 2016</u> University of Rhode Island Providence Campus, Room 501 80 Washington Street Providence, RI 02903 5:30 p.m.</p> |

All interested parties are invited to participate in the public hearings and submit written comments concerning the proposed regulations from July 1, 2016 – September 15, 2016. The hearing locations are accessible to the disabled and interpreter services for the hearing impaired will be provided if requested 48 hours prior to the hearing. Requests for this service can be made in writing or by calling Sonya Barbosa at 401-222-8463 or RI Relay 1-800-745-5555. Written comments may be submitted to Sonya Barbosa at the RI Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 255 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02903, or at Secondary@ride.ri.gov or by faxing 401-222-6178.

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

RI Council on Elementary and Secondary Education

In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, Section 42-35-3(a)(1) of the General Laws of Rhode Island, following is the draft for public hearing of the proposed Regulations of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education: Middle and High School Learning Environments and the Rhode Island Diploma System.